

In Africa, men, women and children are trafficked within the continent and to other regions where they are forced into hard manual labour and its conflicts as soldiers in African conflicts.

The African Union has been quick to identify that human trafficking is a problem and call for its eradication.

In its efforts to harmonize policies and actions in the continent in the area of migration in general that includes human trafficking, the African Union Commission developed the Migration Policy Framework for Africa and the African common position in migration and development.

Human trafficking involves the recruitment, transfer, harboring, transportation or receipt of people for the purpose of sale or other exploitation. Human trafficking should not be confused with people smuggling, which involves a voluntary request by smuggled party or parties in exchange for fee paid to the smuggler. Rather, trafficking victims are enslaved or exploited upon arrival.

Trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants are major challenges facing the international community today. Inter-governmental co-operation and co-ordination is important in combating these crimes effectively. Member states are urged to co-operate more actively in preventing these crimes and bring perpetrators both sides to justice.

However, it must be recognized that persons trafficked are victims and are entitled to protection and assistance.

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Human trafficking

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